

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

- I thank the gentleman for yielding. I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.
- Mr. Speaker, America lost a remarkable leader last week. The people of Florida lost a passionate and effective ally. Our brave men and women in uniform lost a stalwart advocate. And I lost a dear friend.
- Congresswoman Tillie Fowler was much more than a role model for the women who followed her into public service – though her trailblazing example and her indomitable spirit will always inspire us.

- She was much more than Northeast Florida's greatest promoter – though her fervent dedication to the people she served will always guide us.
- She was much more than a trusted colleague to members of both parties – though her unimpeachable standard of honor and integrity will always instruct us.
- Tillie Fowler's contributions – as a public servant, as an attorney, as a civic volunteer, and, most important, as a beloved wife and mother – were routinely extraordinary. Why? Because at every stage of her life, she had the courage to follow common sense and uncommon dreams.
- Whether she was graduating as one of five women in Emory University Law School's Class of 1967 or successfully challenging a political establishment dominated by male Democrats, Tillie Fowler never met a barrier that she could not shatter.

- Yet, while fighting relentlessly for her principles, for Florida, and for America, she never lost her humanity . . . her charity . . . or her grace.
- Mr. Speaker, as we offer our prayers and condolences to her husband of 37 years, Buck, and her two lovely daughters, Tillie Anne and Elizabeth, let us honor Congresswoman Tillie Fowler's memory by elevating our purpose as well as the means we choose to achieve it.
- I yield the floor.